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night. Words of mine can not portray to you the devastation caused. I have been nearly over the island and I have not seen a house that was not damaged. Thousands of houses were blown from their foundations and wrecked. The loss of life by drowning was large, at least 5,000. Five hundred dead bodies and more drifted ashore at Virginia Point. Bodies at this moment, 2 p. m., are taken by dray loads from the débris, and carried past the office every few minutes to be buried at sea or in some hole in the ground. Funerals can not be thought of. There is lack of fresh water.

The water and electric plants were wrecked. One hundred and fifty men began work at the waterworks yesterday and they hope to furnish water by to-morrow. There is no gas. There are no street cars; the street-car power house was wrecked. The aerometer at the Weather Bureau broke down when 84 miles per hour was reached. It is estimated that the velocity of the wind was 100 miles an hour. The water was over the whole island, and at the highest part of the island the water was 5 feet deep. At the house where I boarded the water was 7 feet deep, and the wind was from the northeast, shifting to southeast, then south. The current flowing from the Gulf over the island from southeast to northwest was very rapid, bearing houses, débris, and living beings at a rapid rate to sea.

St. Mary's Infirmary was nearly wrecked. Only a small portion of the new part of the hospital was saved. The wooden part, the chapel, the cottage for county patients and for women was totally wrecked, and 7 dead were taken from the débris.

No man can look upon the devastation and not weep for the lost.

Mrs. Peckham was in Houston. I saved 17 persons in the house where I was. One man in the house left his wife and 2 children to be looked after by me and stayed in the railroad station.

All railroad bridges (there were 3) and 1 wagon bridge were swept away.

All provisions and supplies come by Texas City or direct from Houston.

I have been dressing injuries at the office for seamen and at my boarding house. Please wire me if I have your permission to dress the wounded, furnishing gauze, etc. I assume I have your authority until I hear to the contrary. There is much that I can do to save life. It seems humane when both hospitals are nearly wrecked and the wounded without care would perish.

Respectfully,

C. T. PECKHAM,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

El Paso, Tex., September 15—Inspection service.—I have the honor to report the following summary of work at this station for the week ended September 15, 1900: Inspection of Mexican Central Railroad passenger trains, 110 persons; inspection of Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad passenger trains, 28 persons; inspection of immigrants, 34 persons; disinfection of baggage, clothing, etc., of immigrants, 14 pieces; disinfection of soiled linen imported for laundry, 445 pieces; fumigation of 2 cars loaded with cattle bones imported; vaccination performed on immigrants and children, 11; 4 passengers from Tampico, Mexico—let them pass after one night's detention, receiving information from the consul that the city was entirely free from any contagious disease.

Respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Laredo, Tex., September 17, 1900—Inspection service.—I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended September 15, 1900: Inspected and passed over tramway bridge, 3,775; inspected and passed on Mexican National Railroad trains, 527; immigrants (Mexican) inspected and passed, 47; Italian immigrants inspected and passed, 2; immigrants vaccinated, 5; September 12, refused entry to 1 person three days out from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

September 13, detected above person about to leave on a train going east. He had shaved off his beard and had a change of outer clothing, in fact, was well disguised. I had him placed in the detention camp to complete his period of detention and all his clothes were also disinfected.

September 14, placed in detention camp 1 man five days out from Cordova, Mexico.

September 15, placed in detention camp 1 man three days out from Tampico, and had his baggage disinfected.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report of immigration at Baltimore for the week ended September 22, 1900.

OFFICE OF U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION,
Baltimore, Md., September 22, 1900.

SIR: Number of alien immigrants who arrived at this port during the week ended September 22, 1900, also name of vessel and port from which it came: September 15, steamship *Coblentz*, from Bremen, with 262 immigrants.

Respectfully,

PERCY C. HENNIGHAUSEN,
Commissioner.

Report of immigration at Boston for the week ended September 15, 1900.

OFFICE OF U. S. COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION,
Port of Boston, September 16, 1900.

Number of alien immigrants who arrived at this port during the week ended September 15, 1900; also names of vessels and ports from which they came.

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immigrants.
Sept. 9	Steamship Prince Arthur	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia	201
Do.....	Steamship Boston.....	.....do	126
Sept. 10	Steamship Halifax	Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	230
Do.....	Steamship Admiral Dewey	Port Morant, Jamaica	13
Do.....	Schooner Muriel.....	Annapolis, Nova Scotia.....	1
Do.....	Schooner Mercedes	Bellevue Cove, Nova Scotia	2
Sept. 11	Steamship Prince George.....	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.....	54
Do.....	Steamship Bostonian.....	London, England.....	24
Sept. 12	Steamship Prince Arthur	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.....	53
Do.....	Steamship Boston.....	.....do	63
Sept. 13	Steamship Prince George.....	.....do	98
Do.....	Steamship Yarmouth .....	.....do	75
Do.....	Steamship Admiral Sampson.....	Port Antonio, Jamaica	2
Do.....	Steamship Saxonian.....	Liverpool, England	873
Do.....	Steamship Barrowmore.....	London, England.....	6
Sept. 14	Steamship Prince Arthur	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.....	92
Do.....	Steamship Boston.....	.....do	57
Do.....	Steamship Florida	Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	58
Sept. 15	Steamship Lancastrian.....	Liverpool, England.....	14
Do.....	Steamship Prince George	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.....	86
Do.....	Steamship Yarmouth .....	.....do	56
	Total.....	.....	2,184

GEO. B. BILLINGS,
Commissioner.